



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST PROGRAMS ON THEATER AND CULTURE

Page and Stage: The Power Of the Iliad Today

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Public Library will host a brand new free program series, *Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today*; a ground breaking in-depth partnership between the library and the theatre sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York's acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association that represents Classics professors in the U.S., the Urban Libraries Council and New York University's Center for Ancient Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

Peter Meineck, Artistic Director of Aquila Theatre and Clinical Assistant Professor of Classics at New York University is directing the program, "The themes that articulated the human condition in ancient drama were transmitted and interpreted by later poetry and literature. A play becomes 'classical' because we recognize after a time that it transcends the culture it was created for. It has the power still to provoke that central question of what it means to be human," said Mr. Meineck. Thus San Diego Public Library will explore Homer's *Iliad* through the perspective of the program theme: *Know Thyself* and exploring the power of the *Iliad* today.

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The program kicks off with a free performance of Aquila Theatre's innovative production of Homer's *Iliad: Book One* live at the City Heights Weingart Library & Performance Annex on March 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. followed by a post show discussion with noted local scholar, Anthony Edwards, Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature Homer; Greek Comedy; Classical Rhetoric, at the University of California San Diego.

This production premiered at Lincoln Center in New York and was hailed by the New York Times as “a performance of staggering power...stunning, stirring, and memorable theatrical experience.”

Other free events include a workshop with the Aquila actors on staging classical plays, a multi-session reading group and or film series and a public lecture by the local expert scholar on the theme of *Know Thyself*. These events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. San Diego Public Library is one of sixteen libraries in seven states nationwide receiving grants to host this series.

Aquila Theatre's performance of Homer's *Iliad: Book One* to be held on Sunday, March 15, at 4:00p.m.at City Heights Weingart Library & Performance Annex.

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For more information regarding the scheduling of a monthly reading group and a public lecture with a local Professor please visit www.sandiegolibrary.org , www.pageandstage.org or contact the information Desk at 619-236-5800.

Aquila Theatre's mission is to bring the greatest theatrical works to the greatest number. By presenting a regular season of plays in New York, at international festivals, and touring to approximately seventy American towns and cities a year, Aquila provides access to excellent theatre for people in under-served rural and inner city communities.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

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